Assistance for rehabilitation of ULFA activists

225. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of ULFA activists had, of late, surrendered arms before the Assam Government after an assurance of their rehabilitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has asked for full assistance/reimbursement of expenses incurred/to be incurred thereon; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) 334 ULFA activists have surrendered alongwith 114 arms.

(c) and (d) A proposal for rehabilitation of surrendered militants is under consideration. No final decision has been taken yet.

Central instructions to States to curb attacks on minorities

226. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any instructions to the State Government to check the growing attacks against minorities?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what initiatives have been taken by Government to book the culprits who attacked the persons and properties of the Christian community?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) After the recent incidents of attack on minorities, the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the district law and order authorities to respond immediately to the complaints of harassment of minorities and initiate prompt and effective action to identify and punish the guilty persons.

"Public Order" and "Police" are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

The Government is firmly of the view that acts of violence against any community, wherever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators of such violence.

Smuggling of drugs along Nepal Border

227. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI uses Nepali muslims for anti-India campaign" appearing in the Times of India (Mumbai), dated 22nd July, 1997;

(b) whether communal trouble and smuggling of drugs are rampant in this border area;

(c) whether intelligence department has brought these facts to Government's notice;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government on this information and in the light of decisions arrived at in meeting of Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal in Kathmandu in March, 1995;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the present situation regarding maintenance of law and order in Indo-Nepal borders?